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PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Docket No: Q63733

Yoshinori MIZUMURA

Appln. No.: 09/816,774

Group Art Unit: 1764

Confirmation No.: 5498

Examiner: Ellen M. McAvoy

Filed: March 26, 2001

For: METHOD OF USING A LUBRICATING MEMBER FOR FOOD-PROCESSING
EQUIPMENT

RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111

MAIL STOP NON-FEE AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated March 19, 2004 (June 19, 2004 being a Saturday), please consider the remarks as submitted herewith on the accompanying pages.

REMARKS

Claims 1-7 are all the claims pending in the application. Reconsideration and allowance of all the claims are respectfully requested in view of the following.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 112

The Examiner rejected claims 1-7 under §112, 2nd paragraph, as indefinite. Specifically, the Examiner asserted that it was unclear whether the "lubricating member" is a solid, a liquid, or a combination thereof. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection because, from the language of claim 1 itself, it is clear that the lubricating member is a combination of a solid and a liquid.

Claim 1 describes "using said lubricating member at temperature more than the pour point of said lubricant". From this description, it is clear that the lubricant is liquid. Also,